

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

984I0097

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Introduced by: Senator Ham

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the Governor and the Unified Judicial System
2 of the State of South Dakota to use all resources appropriated for the rehabilitation of
3 juveniles in a unified manner so as to best serve both the juveniles and the tax paying citizens.

4 WHEREAS, the 2002 Juvenile Offenses and Sentencing Legislative Interim Committee
5 found that state agencies, political subdivisions, tribes, private organizations, and school districts
6 need to communicate more effectively and coordinate services to ensure consistent delivery; and

7 WHEREAS, early intervention and prevention are key to significantly reducing juvenile
8 delinquency and future prison population growth; and

9 WHEREAS, family counseling services are a proven tool to help communication and reduce
10 delinquency and strengthen the entire family; and

11 WHEREAS, the approach must be system-wide to assure the funding and hours are used in
12 the most effective way; and

13 WHEREAS, more services must be made available to better serve all children in South
14 Dakota, recognizing the current lack of service in remote rural areas; and

15 WHEREAS, the services to status offenders would be better provided by a system-wide
16 approach; and



1 WHEREAS, the need for long-term follow-up for the entire family is crucial to the success
2 of any program; and

3 WHEREAS, evaluations are needed for all programs and sunset provisions must be made to
4 eliminate those that are not effective. For purposes of evaluation, program assessment tools shall
5 be normed and validated, fit the intent of the program, and provide outcome measures of
6 program accomplishments. The assessment tools shall be substantially equivalent to, or more
7 comprehensive than, professionally recognized methods of evaluation; and

8 WHEREAS, strengthening the family is the cornerstone to the long-term solution of crime
9 prevention and prison population increases in South Dakota and the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, long-term prevention is our goal, interim measures must be taken to treat the
11 children of today and prepare them for tomorrow:

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-eighth Legislature
13 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
14 Governor and the Unified Judicial System be directed to work together with all departments and
15 other interested agencies to organize service providers into one multi-disciplinary council of
16 juvenile services ensuring our youth have the best preventative measures and treatments
17 available.